## **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**



## FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294 (323) 881-2401

FIRE CHIEF FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

April 27, 2015

TO:

**EACH SUPERVISOR** 

FROM:

DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF TRE for DLO

## **USA-2 (CALIFORNIA TASK FORCE 2) DEPLOYMENT TO NEPAL**

Our California Task Force 2 (CATF2) urban search and rescue team, deployed internationally as USA-2, was requested through the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) to assist in rescue and recovery efforts following Saturday's 7.8 magnitude earthquake centered northwest of Kathmandu, Nepal's capital city. The team departed from March Air Force Base last night at 10:50 p.m., as a Medium Rescue Team of 57 personnel, including six canines and their handlers. They are expected to arrive in Nepal on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. Nepal time.

We will be in continual contact with the team throughout their deployment, as well as with their family members, through our Department Support Team (DST) based out of our Pacoima facility. Our Public Affairs team is also planning to disseminate a news release each day to share updates with area reporters about the team's activities; a copy of these releases will be sent to your office. In addition to these efforts, we will provide direct updates regarding any major developments.

USA-2 is one of only two American search and rescue teams that partners with USAID/OFDA to deploy internationally; the other team, USA-1 from Fairfax, Virginia, has also been deployed. It is once again a great source of pride for our organization to not only have this highly specialized response capability, but to be called into duty by USAID/OFDA to help save lives and property beyond our borders.

If you have any questions, please call me at (323) 881-6180.

## DLO:kh

c:

Sachi Hamai Sheila Williams Jim Jones

Ben Polk

Derric Johnson Sherry Gold Rick Velasquez

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